

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections

P.O. Box 18187 Portland, ME 04112

July 26, 2006

Elizabeth Wyman, Assistant Attorney General

Via email: Liz.Wyman@maine.gov

Re: Request for Intervention

Dear Ms. Wyman,

We write today to formally apply for intervention as an “interested person” in John Michael’s appeal proceeding before the Ethics Commission.

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) is a nonpartisan coalition of groups and individuals which has advocated in support of the Maine Clean Election Act since its inception. Before the Act became law, we were organized as Maine Voters for Clean Elections, and it was in this incarnation that we drafted the Act, gathered the necessary signatures to qualify it for the ballot and worked for its passage.

Throughout the implementation years, MCCE has taken an active role in rulemaking, legislative changes, Ethics Commission rulings, public education, etc. MCCE was afforded “amici plus” status in the lawsuits that sought to overturn the Act. We partnered with the State of Maine to successfully defend the law. In this process we have become familiar with many of the legal and factual questions relating to the statute and we stand ready to share our experience so that the issues that arise in this proceeding may receive the fullest possible analysis.

Throughout the 10 years of Clean Elections in Maine, MCCE has provided a consistent, nonpartisan voice for the Act. While we have encouraged candidates to use the Clean Election public funding program, we have and will never endorse or oppose individual candidates or political parties for any reason. Our aim is to make sure the Maine Clean Election Act works well for the people of Maine.

We believe our perspective should be considered during this appeal proceeding, and we ask that we be allowed to submit a statement for the record.

Many thanks,

Ann Luther aluther@hughes.net
Co-chair